

Bryan Christopher Castaneda, Esq. State Bar No. 275095
bryanchristophercastaneda@gmail.com
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK
A Professional Corporation
283 Ocho Rios Way
Oak Park, California 91377-5540
Tel: (818) 437-5630 - reznagoura@aol.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY
MEMBER 2004 and DOE JEWISH USC STUDENT
1987, Individually And On Behalf Of All
Others Similarly Situated

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY MEMBER
2004, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-05712-FLA (SSCx)

**PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE APPLICATION
FOR AN ORDER:**

- 1) **GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO
FILE BELATED OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS
AND STRIKE; OR**
- 2) **CONTINUING HEARING DATE ON
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS
AND STRIKE; OR**
- 3) **GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO
FILE AMENDED COMPLAINT**

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E.
REZNICK IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

[PROPOSED] ORDER

**DATE: [NO HEARING]
TIME: [NO HEARING]
CTRM: 6B, Hon. Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha**

TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT Plaintiffs DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY
MEMBER 2004 and DOE JEWISH USC STUDENT 1987, individually and on behalf of all

1 others similarly situated (hereinafter “Plaintiffs”), hereby apply to the Court ex parte for an Order
2 granting Plaintiffs leave to file Plaintiffs’ belated and untimely “Opposition to Defendant’s
3 Motion to Dismiss and Strike” attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” or in the alternative for an Order to
4 continue the extant hearing date thereon (to permit a timely filing) or in the alternative, for an
5 Order for leave to file an amended Complaint.
6

7 The undersigned counsel has advised attorney Rasha Gerges Shields, counsel for
8 Defendant, that such an ex parte request will be made to this Court. As of the time of this
9 Application, Defendant’s counsel has not indicated whether she will oppose such request.

10 Such an extension is necessary and appropriate so that Defendant’s motion to dismiss and
11 strike can be decided on the merits as opposed to being decided on the basis of Plaintiffs’
12 counsel’s inadvertent failure to comply with a procedural deadline.
13

14 Good cause exists because the failure to timely file an opposition was the result of
15 Plaintiffs’ counsel’s inadvertent error and mistaken belief that the jurisdictional issues raised first
16 by the Court and second by Plaintiffs’ motion for remand would be decided before an opposition
17 was due. Simply stated, it was not Plaintiffs’ fault in any respect. Since it is the policy of the
18 Court to decide cases on the merit, to grant Defendant’s motion without opposition would give
19 Defendant an unintended and undeserved windfall at the expense of blameless Plaintiffs.
20

21 Plaintiffs request that the Court continue the hearing date on Defendant’s motion to
22 dismiss and strike an additional 30 days so that the Court and the parties have adequate time to
23 respond to any new issues raised by Plaintiffs’ belated opposition. Hopefully the parties will also
24 have a ruling by then on subject matter jurisdiction. In the alternative, Plaintiffs request that the
25 Court grant leave to file an amended complaint so that Plaintiffs can allege a class definition that
26 limits Plaintiffs to California citizens. The amended pleading will also cure any other substantive
27 or procedural defects that can be remedied by changes to the extant pleading.
28

1 For each and all of the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court
2 grant their ex parte application so that their case can be heard on the merits and not be decided by
3 their counsel's failure to timely file an opposition to Defendant's motion to dismiss.
4

5
6 DATED: September 9, 2024

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK
A Professional Corporation

7
8 By: /s/Bryan Christopher Castaneda
Bryan Christopher Castaneda
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK

I, MICHAEL E. REZNICK, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and counsel of record for Plaintiffs. Except as otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of each of the facts stated herein and could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was solely responsible for filing a late opposition to Defendant's motion to dismiss as a result of mis-calendaring the due date when the parties stipulated to continue the hearing date in light of the Court's still pending OSC re remand for lack of subject jurisdiction under CAFA and Plaintiffs' subsequent motion for remand. The OSC and motion for remand are still pending and there has been no decision from the Court as of the date of filing as to whether it has subject matter jurisdiction over the cause or if so, whether the case is subject to mandatory abstention.

3. In light of this Court favoring the disposition of cases on the merits, I respectfully request that the Court consider the attached belated (untimely) opposition to Defendant's motion to dismiss or strike, or in the alternative, continue the hearing date 30 days or more so that the opposition will be timely under the time limits provided by the Local Rules. Alternatively, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant leave to amend the First Amended Complaint to allege that only citizens of the State of California are Plaintiffs, thereby negating even "minimal" diversity between the parties and this Court's subject matter jurisdiction.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 9, 2024 at Oak Park, California.


MICHAEL E. REZNICK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 9, 2024, I served the following documents by and through the CM/ECF system all parties of record to this action and interested parties who are registered CM/ECF users, or have registered for electronic notice, or have consented in writing to electronic service, and that service will be accomplished through the CM/ECF system:

PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER:

4) GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO FILE BELATED OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS AND STRIKE; OR

5) CONTINUING HEARING DATE ON DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS AND STRIKE; OR

6) GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO FILE AMENDED COMPLAINT

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK IN SUPPORT THEREOF

[PROPOSED] ORDER

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 9, 2024 at Oak Park, California.

By: /s/Bryan Christopher Castaneda
Bryan Christopher Castaneda

Bryan Christopher Castaneda, Esq. State Bar No. 275095
bryanchristophercastaneda@gmail.com
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK
A Professional Corporation
283 Ocho Rios Way
Oak Park, California 91377-5540
Tel: (818) 437-5630 - reznagoura@aol.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY
MEMBER 2004 and DOE JEWISH USC STUDENT
1987, Individually And On Behalf Of All
Others Similarly Situated

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY MEMBER
2004, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-05712-FLA (SSCx)

**PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE APPLICATION
FOR AN ORDER:**

- 1) **GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO
FILE BELATED OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS
AND STRIKE; OR**
- 2) **CONTINUING HEARING DATE ON
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS
AND STRIKE; OR**
- 3) **GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO
FILE AMENDED COMPLAINT**

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E.
REZNICK IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

[PROPOSED] ORDER

**DATE: [NO HEARING]
TIME: [NO HEARING]
CTRM: 6B, Hon. Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha**

TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT Plaintiffs DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY
MEMBER 2004 and DOE JEWISH USC STUDENT 1987, individually and on behalf of all

1 others similarly situated (hereinafter “Plaintiffs”), hereby apply to the Court ex parte for an Order
2 granting Plaintiffs leave to file Plaintiffs’ belated and untimely “Opposition to Defendant’s
3 Motion to Dismiss and Strike” attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” or in the alternative for an Order to
4 continue the extant hearing date thereon (to permit a timely filing) or in the alternative, for an
5 Order for leave to file an amended Complaint.
6

7 The undersigned counsel has advised attorney Rasha Gerges Shields, counsel for
8 Defendant, that such an ex parte request will be made to this Court. As of the time of this
9 Application, Defendant’s counsel has not indicated whether she will oppose such request.

10 Such an extension is necessary and appropriate so that Defendant’s motion to dismiss and
11 strike can be decided on the merits as opposed to being decided on the basis of Plaintiffs’
12 counsel’s inadvertent failure to comply with a procedural deadline.
13

14 Good cause exists because the failure to timely file an opposition was the result of
15 Plaintiffs’ counsel’s inadvertent error and mistaken belief that the jurisdictional issues raised first
16 by the Court and second by Plaintiffs’ motion for remand would be decided before an opposition
17 was due. Simply stated, it was not Plaintiffs’ fault in any respect. Since it is the policy of the
18 Court to decide cases on the merit, to grant Defendant’s motion without opposition would give
19 Defendant an unintended and undeserved windfall at the expense of blameless Plaintiffs.
20

21 Plaintiffs request that the Court continue the hearing date on Defendant’s motion to
22 dismiss and strike an additional 30 days so that the Court and the parties have adequate time to
23 respond to any new issues raised by Plaintiffs’ belated opposition. Hopefully the parties will also
24 have a ruling by then on subject matter jurisdiction. In the alternative, Plaintiffs request that the
25 Court grant leave to file an amended complaint so that Plaintiffs can allege a class definition that
26 limits Plaintiffs to California citizens. The amended pleading will also cure any other substantive
27 or procedural defects that can be remedied by changes to the extant pleading.
28

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK

I, MICHAEL E. REZNICK, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and counsel of record for Plaintiffs. Except as otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of each of the facts stated herein and could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was solely responsible for filing a late opposition to Defendant's motion to dismiss as a result of mis-calendaring the due date when the parties stipulated to continue the hearing date in light of the Court's still pending OSC re remand for lack of subject jurisdiction under CAFA and Plaintiffs' subsequent motion for remand. The OSC and motion for remand are still pending and there has been no decision from the Court as of the date of filing as to whether it has subject matter jurisdiction over the cause or if so, whether the case is subject to mandatory abstention.

3. In light of this Court favoring the disposition of cases on the merits, I respectfully request that the Court consider the attached belated (untimely) opposition to Defendant's motion to dismiss or strike, or in the alternative, continue the hearing date 30 days or more so that the opposition will be timely under the time limits provided by the Local Rules. Alternatively, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant leave to amend the First Amended Complaint to allege that only citizens of the State of California are Plaintiffs, thereby negating even "minimal" diversity between the parties and this Court's subject matter jurisdiction.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 9, 2024 at Oak Park, California.



MICHAEL E. REZNICK

EXHIBIT A

Bryan Christopher Castaneda, Esq. State Bar No. 275095
bryanchristophercastaneda@gmail.com
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK
A Professional Corporation
283 Ocho Rios Way
Oak Park, California 91377-5540
Tel: (818) 437-5630 - reznagoura@aol.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY
MEMBER 2004 and DOE JEWISH USC STUDENT
1987, Individually And On Behalf Of All
Others Similarly Situated

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DOE JEWISH USC FACULTY MEMBER
2004, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-05712-FLA (SSCx)

**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS
AND STRIKE**

DATE: September 13, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

CTRM: 6B, Hon. Frenando L. Aenlle-Rocha

**[EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR LEAVE
TO FILE LATE OPPOSTIION PENDING]**

**I. PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT ADEQUATELY ALLEGES
INTENTIONAL ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION, ASSAULT, BATTERY AND
BREACH OF CONTRACT AGAINST THE DEFENDANT UNIVERSITY**

The first 13 pages of Defendant's motion to dismiss ("MTD") erroneously assert that Plaintiffs' allegations do not rise to the level of "intent" required under California law to state a cause of action. ("Consistent with their text and legislative purpose, all three statutes [Bane Act, Unruh Act and Ralph Act] capture only *intentional* deprivations of civil rights or *intentional* discrimination"); ("Plaintiffs must plead and prove that USC's 'act of interference' with a civil right was itself 'deliberate or spiteful'"); ("[A]s with the civil rights claims, California law requires

1 a defendant to specifically intend to facilitate an assault or battery by ‘outside agitators’ based on
2 an aiding and abetting theory” (all citations omitted) (Defendant’s MTD at pages 7-13).

3 The gravamen of Plaintiffs’ Complaint in this “local controversy” action (originally filed
4 in the Los Angeles County Superior Court by California citizens and members of the USC Family
5 against California’s UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (“Defendant” or “USC”)) is
6 that USC *intentionally and purposely* aided, abetted, encouraged, facilitated and enabled a mob
7 of pro-Hamas terrorist students and outside agitators to take over and operate its campus for
8 weeks on end in late April and May 2024 to intimidate, assault, terrorize, and control access to
9 the Campus and deny free passage for Jewish Students and Jewish Faculty Members. (Plaintiffs’
10 First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) at 2:2-10:10).

11
12 Plaintiffs allege, among other things, that they were denied passage to their places of
13 study and work unless they disavowed “Zionism” and otherwise complied with demands from
14 what has now fashionably become USC’s “most favored” protestors and protests. *Id.*

15
16 The Jewish Faculty Member class representative alleges that he or she was specifically
17 spat on by the terrorist mob, and the FAC generally alleges that “Jewish Students and Jewish
18 Professors and Faculty were spat on by the Campus Terrorists if they dared to cross into the
19 Encampment.” (FAC at 2:25-27). These facts, in conjunction with the specific facts alleging the
20 various means by which USC aided and abetted the Campus Terrorists, including USC’s long-
21 standing policies and procedures, establish the elements needed to constitute a classic case of
22 common law assault and “battery.”

23
24 The FAC alleges that Defendant not only knew or should have known about the terrorist
25 mob (negligence), but also encouraged and enabled the event and the terrorists with virtually no
26 pushback whatsoever (until donors threatened to pull their donations). (FAC at 2:2-12:31).
27 Indeed, Plaintiffs allege that in some respects USC sponsored the terrorists. In response to
28

1 Plaintiffs' complaints, USC did nothing other than instruct Plaintiffs to work and study at home
2 remotely rather than come to the Campus if they could not handle the heat. Id.

3 The Court must accept as true the allegations in Plaintiffs' FAC if they show a plausible
4 claim for relief. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 US 544, 556 (2007); *Starr v. Bacca*, 652 F.
5 3d 1202, 1216 (9th Cir. 2011). When a complaint's allegations are capable of more than one
6 inference, the court must adopt whichever plausible inference supports a valid claim. *Starr, supra*
7 at 1216.

9 In this case, the allegations set forth in the FAC all give rise to valid claims against USC
10 under the California BANE Act, Ralph Act, and Unruh Act. (See Judicial Council of California,
11 "Civil Jury Instructions" ("CACI")) (CACI 3066) ("Bane Act-Essential Factual Elements (Civ.
12 Code 52.1"); (CACI 3067) ("Unruh Civil Rights Act-Damages (Civ. Code 51, 52"); (CACI 3068)
13 ("Ralph Act-Damages and Penalty (Civ. Code 51.7, 52(b).") The incorporated facts directly and
14 indirectly assert intentional conduct and deprivation of Plaintiffs' civil rights under these state law
15 statutes.

17 The allegations in the FAC also assert valid common law claims sounding in breach of
18 contract," "negligence," "assault" and "battery." (See CACI 303) ("Breach of Contract-Essential
19 Factual Elements"), (CACI 400) ("Negligence-Essential Factual Elements"), (CACI 1300)
20 (Battery-Essential Factual Elements) and (CACI 1301 ("Assault-Essential Factual Elements").

22 In this case, Plaintiffs have alleged the specific facts set forth in paragraphs 1-31 of the
23 FAC into the referenced causes of action and in particular, the factual elements of proof needed to
24 establish each claim. This is confirmed by the applicable jury instructions referenced herein.

25 Thus, Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have alleged claims sufficient to entitle them
26 to recover nominal damages and more importantly injunctive relief for the damages and harm
27 caused by Defendant's conduct, action and inaction with respect to each of the statutes that
28

1 Plaintiffs allege Defendant has violated.

2 Moreover, Plaintiffs' class representatives are adequate to serve the putative class and
3 there is no reason at this early pleading stage to strike the class allegations.

4 Accordingly, the Court should deny Defendant's motions to dismiss and strike in their
5 entirety.

6 **II. IF THE COURT CONCLUDES THAT USC'S DEFENSES RE FAILURE TO**
7 **PLEAD THE REQUISITE INTENT HAVE ANY MERIT, THE COURT SHOULD**
8 **GRANT PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO ALLEGE THE REQUISITE INTENT**

9 Contrary to the assertions of Defendant, Plaintiffs have clearly alleged direct facts and
10 indirect facts and circumstances under which this Court can reasonably infer intentional
11 deprivations of civil rights or intentional discrimination by USC and its Trustees.

12 For example, Plaintiffs allege that some of the outside agitators and guest professors
13 causing the harm complained of by Plaintiffs were invited by USC to speak or teach at the USC
14 campus with USC'S knowledge that just inviting them to speak or teach would foment the very
15 kind of protests that gave rise to the encampments and discrimination at issue. Id.

16 Plaintiffs respectfully submit that USC's encouragement and appeasement of pro-Hamas
17 and Jew-hating encampments of terrorists, and knowingly allowing encampments comprised of
18 Jew-hating students and outside agitators to exist and flourish for weeks on end during the school
19 year in the middle of USC's "town square"- is in and of itself an intentional act of defiance
20 against all Jewish citizens and in particular, Jewish students and faculty members.

21 Thus, Plaintiffs have alleged facts and circumstances that show and demonstrate that
22 Defendant and its trustees favor mob rule at the expense of Jewish Faculty Members and
23 Students. This conduct constitutes "intentional" discrimination. USC's "tolerance" of mob rule
24 is an intentional deprivation the civil rights of any Jewish Student or Jewish Faculty Member who
25 does not feel he or she needs to tolerate it. Jews who pay to study and gain a degree from USC
26
27
28

1 and faculty members who happen to be Jewish should not be forced to remain in their offices or
2 dorm rooms because they do not want, need or require daily reminders from terrorist mobs
3 wearing traditional Khalifah and other masks to cover their true identities that Defendant's
4 trustees are condoning and encouraging encampments created by Hamas supporting terrorist
5 mobs who want to wipe Israel and all Jews off the face of the Earth.
6

7 To the extent that this Court agrees with Defendant and views that Plaintiffs' statutory
8 discrimination and assault and battery claims do not plead the requisite intent, Plaintiffs should be
9 allowed leave to amend to allege the intent that the Court finds wanting. See *Lillard v. Shelby*
10 *County Board of Ed.*, 76 F. 3d 716, 724 (6th Cir. 1996) (motions to dismiss civil rights complaints
11 should be "scrutinized with special care").
12

13
14 DATED: September 9, 2024

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. REZNICK
A Professional Corporation

15
16 By: /s/Bryan Christopher Castaneda
Bryan Christopher Castaneda

17 Attorney for Plaintiffs DOE JEWISH USC
18 FACULTY MEMBER 2004 and DOE JEWISH
19 USC STUDENT 1987, Individually And On Behalf
20 Of All Others Similarly Situated
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 9, 2024, I served the following documents by and through the CM/ECF system all parties of record to this action and interested parties who are registered CM/ECF users, or have registered for electronic notice, or have consented in writing to electronic service, and that service will be accomplished through the CM/ECF system:

PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS AND STRIKE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 9, 2024 at Oak Park, California.

By: /s/Bryan Christopher Castaneda
Bryan Christopher Castaneda

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 9, 2024, I served the following documents by and through the CM/ECF system all parties of record to this action and interested parties who are registered CM/ECF users, or have registered for electronic notice, or have consented in writing to electronic service, and that service will be accomplished through the CM/ECF system:

PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER:

4) GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO FILE BELATED OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS AND STRIKE; OR

5) CONTINUING HEARING DATE ON DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS AND STRIKE; OR

6) GRANTING PLAINTIFFS LEAVE TO FILE AMENDED COMPLAINT

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E.
REZNICK IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

[PROPOSED] ORDER

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 9, 2024 at Oak Park, California.

By: /s/Bryan Christopher Castaneda
Bryan Christopher Castaneda